

Kuwait police nab raiders

KUWAIT (R) — Police said Monday they had arrested five people who broke into a financial house in Kuwait on Saturday and escaped with banknotes and travellers cheques worth more than \$1 million. An Interior Ministry statement announcing the capture of all members of the gang did not disclose their number or nationality. Police sources, however, said five people, including a girl, were being held. The ministry statement said three employees of the firm, the Kuwaiti Financial Company, were wounded in the attack by knife-wielding raiders and were taken to hospital. It said the travellers cheques and some of the banknotes were found on the people arrested. Financial sources said the travellers cheques were worth \$1 million while the banknotes amounted to 6,000 Kuwaiti dinars (about \$20,600).

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Arafat not to attend meeting

MADRID (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has decided not to attend next week's Geneva conference on Palestinian rights, informed U.N. sources said here Monday. They said PLO officials have informed U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is visiting Madrid, of Mr. Arafat's decision, ending weeks of speculation. Farouk Kaddoumi, the organisation's foreign policy expert, would lead the PLO delegation, the sources said. The Swiss authorities are making stringent security arrangements for the session, which was transferred from Paris after the French government objected to having it held there. Several thousand delegates, including a number of foreign ministers, are expected to be present at the conference, which will be opened by Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Aug. 29.

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Fire extinguishers made mandatory in cars

AMMAN (Petra) — Traffic Department Director Brig. Gen. Ahmed Abu Al Sa'ud said Monday that the department will start asking drivers to display their car's fire extinguishers within two days starting Wednesday. Brig. Gen. Abu Al Sa'ud urged drivers and vehicle owners to ensure the presence of an extinguisher in their vehicles, as drivers will risk being charged for not possessing them upon instructions by Minister of Interior Ahmed 'Obeidat and according to Article 19 of the New Traffic Law.

Deadline reextended for registration of W. Bank families

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Registration Department Monday announced an extension of the deadline for the registration of families in the occupied West Bank and abroad.

It said that Jordanians not living in the East Bank of Jordan at present have until Dec. 31, 1984 to complete the registration of their families with the department or any of its branches in the country. Earlier, the department granted these citizens until Dec. 31, 1983 to complete their registration.

Iraqi women to replace soldiers in industry

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's General Federation of Women has prepared a plan to employ more than one million women as unskilled workers in the state and private sectors, apparently to replace men fighting on the Gulf war fronts. The English-language newspaper Baghdad Observer reported Monday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said last month that over a million Iraqi regular soldiers and 100,000 para-military popular army troops were stationed on the battlefronts.

Ambusher killed, Israel says

TEL AVIV (R) — A guerrilla was killed Sunday night during an attack on an Israeli patrol in South Lebanon, an Israeli military spokesman said. Two bazooka rockets were fired at the Israeli unit north of the Lebanese coastal town of Tyre. The Israelis fired back and suffered no casualties, the spokesman said.

Djibouti president ends Egyptian visit

CAIRO (R) — President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti left for home Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. Mr. Gouled held talks Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on ways of cementing relations between the two Arab states, and on African issues. Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Boutros Ghali, was quoted by MENA as saying Egypt had agreed during Mr. Gouled's talks to step up its technical assistance to the Red Sea republic. He gave no further details.

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NCC members attack American attitude U.S. policy pushes Mideast towards war, Badran asserts

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran warned Monday that American policy in the Middle East was closing all doors to peace and pushing the region towards war.

In an address to Monday's regular session of the National Consultative Council (NCC), Mr. Badran also denounced Washington's recent veto of a Security Council resolution on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Badran's address to the NCC followed a debate among members of the council who voiced harsh criticism of American policy in the Middle East and supported His Majesty King Hussein's recent statement that the U.S. veto was "totally unacceptable."

"The U.S. veto of the Arab proposal on settlements, which coincided with Israel's determination to build yet more settlements, means closing all doors to peace because there will be nothing for us to negotiate about," Mr. Badran said.

"If Washington goes ahead with its current policy, which in itself is against international principles and U.N. decisions, then it will push the area to war," he added, in the harshest yet criticism by a Jordanian official of American policy.

The Security Council resolution demanded that all Israeli settlements be dismantled. But the U.S., the only country to veto it, said dismantling the settlements would be "impractical."

The prime minister said that the vetoed resolution was prompted by the recent escalation of Israel's settlement activities in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. "A city which is a historical Islamic Aqaba,"

"The conviction that Israeli moves to build settlements in major cities and towns in the oc-

cupied territories will leave nothing to negotiate about in the future, prompted Jordan to complain to the United Nations, especially in the light that the Security Council had previously adopted a resolution declaring the settlements as illegal, which was in compliance with Jordan's stand," Mr. Badran said.

"The U.S. veto of the objective and U.N. Charter-based resolution indicates a very serious inclination in Washington's policy against the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the Arab World," Mr. Badran said.

The prime minister emphasised that "if the U.S. carries on with its new policy, the region will be dragged towards war, particularly in the light of the increasing U.S. military assistance to Israel, as manifested in the latest American decision to resume the supply of F-16s."

"Jordan, which has always worked seriously and faithfully for securing peace in the Middle East, will resume its task with its Arab brethren to reverse the new American stand towards Israeli settlements," Mr. Badran added.

On Sunday, in an interview with the Los Angeles Times, King Hussein described the U.S. veto as "totally unacceptable" and a "very dangerous and shocking development."

The King also rejected American explanations justifying the veto as "certainly inadequate and unsatisfactory."

The draft resolution was introduced in the Security Council following last month's attack by masked gunmen, believed to be Jewish settlers, on Palestinian students in the Hebron Islamic Col-

lege. Three students were killed and 40 other wounded in the attack.

The American veto effectively killed the resolution, which called for dismantling all Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, when it came up for voting in the council on Aug. 2. The U.S. vote was the only one against the resolution in the 15-member council, with one abstention (Zaire).

NCC criticism

During Monday's NCC session, presided over by its Speaker Sulaiman Arar, council members voiced harsh criticism of American policy in the Middle East and said it constitutes a "very grave danger" to the region.

Council members also supported King Hussein's statement to the American newspapers and said the King's assertion "truly reflected Jordanian feelings, towards U.S. policy."

Mr. Amin Shukry said that the "American enemy towards the Arab Nation is relentless," and called on the Jordanian government to adopt "basic policies taking into consideration this American stand."

Another member of the council, Mr. Abdullah Akhuershiedeh, said the King's statement on the "hesitant and controversial" U.S. policy was sound and reflected the Jordanian leader's national and pan-Arab loyalty.

Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed said that "the U.S. stand towards Arabs and the Palestinian cause has deteriorated in its core."

Mr. Kayed and another member, Yahya Kreis, said that the NCC, the Jordanian government and all government institutions should take into consideration the hostile American stand towards the Arab Nation.

Monday's NCC session also discussed internal issues such as increasing services to low-income housing in Aqaba, and various other subjects pending before the council.

NCC acts on Aqaba low-income housing services, page 3



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday addresses the regular session of the National Consultative Council (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordan regulates Palestinian pilgrims' stay, touristic visits

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will allow Palestinian pilgrims from the occupied territories returning from Saudi Arabia after performing the Haj to stay in Jordan for a period not exceeding three days upon the request of their relatives living in Jordan, according to an Interior Ministry decision Monday.

Those wishing to host such pilgrims can do so but the number of the pilgrims will be limited to four per host and the guests should leave after three days after their arrival in Jordan, according to the decision.

Permission to host pilgrims should be obtained one week prior to the pilgrims' arrival in Jordan from Saudi Arabia on their way back, the Interior Ministry decision said. The permissions will be issued by the Public Security Directorate.

Group visits of pilgrims to historical places in Jordan will be allowed provided that each group will not have more than three buses per trip and the visits are organised in coordination with the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Interior Ministry said.

PLO says Mossad killed official in Athens

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) says Israel's Mossad secret service killed a Palestinian leader in Athens on Saturday, according to the Palestinian news agency WAFA in a dispatch published here Monday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mamoun Mreish Sughayer, 36, was shot dead in an Athens suburb by two motorcyclists. His son and their car driver were wounded.

"All Palestinians know that it is the criminal Zionist organisation Mossad which murdered Colonel Mamoun Mreish," the agency said, quoting a PLO communiqué.

Col. Sughayer was a leader of Fatah, the main Palestinian guerrilla movement which is led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He was also a close associate of Khalil Al Wazir, deputy commander of the PLO forces.

Druze renew threat against Beirut airport

DAMASCUS (R) — The mainly Druze Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Monday threatened to shell Beirut airport if Lebanese army units based at the airport continued to fire on Druze areas in the Shouf mountains.

A spokesman for the PSP, which is headed by Druze leader Walid Junblatt, said army units at the airport "are still shelling at random populated areas in Shweifat, Ainab and other mountain area villages."

"We want the Lebanese authorities against continuing their aggression against our villages and that we will be forced to retaliate against these emplacements if the shelling continues, which will lead to the closure of the airport."

Beirut airport was closed for six days recently after coming under shell and rocket fire from Druze positions.

The spokesman called on international airlines not to use the airport because of "the army's persistence" in making it a military base for shelling mountain villages.

"We will not stay idle in the face of the daily acts of aggression being exercised by the sectarian army," he said.

Heavy shelling between Druze and rightist militias erupted outside Beirut overnight and several rounds hit city suburbs.

Palestinian leadership hold talks in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met in Tunis Monday to review efforts to heal rifts within the organisation, PLO sources said.

The meeting, which began Sunday night under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, is being attended by 12 of the 14 members of the committee. It will also discuss attempts to mend the PLO's relations with Syria, the sources added.

The two committee members absent from the meeting are the representative of the pro-Syrian Saika movement and the delegate of the mostly pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

The meeting is being held in the Seila Hotel, a former tourist resort 25 kilometres south of Tunis, which has been used as headquarters by the PLO leadership since Palestinian guerrillas evacuated Lebanon following the Israeli invasion a year ago.

The sources said the executive meeting will review progress made by an 18-member conciliation group set up early this month by the PLO Central Council. The group last week conferred with anti-Arafat dissidents in the mainstream Fatah group and Syrian government officials.

The conciliation group, which is still in Damascus, has drawn up a memorandum suggesting solutions to the rift in the PLO, which will be examined during the Executive Committee meeting, the sources said.

The meeting will also discuss the deteriorating situation of Palestinians in areas of Lebanon under control of right-wing Falangists, they added.

In an interview last week Mr. Arafat said quarrels within the PLO had been settled and there now remained only the disagreement with the Syrians. His remarks seemed to suggest that the latest mediation efforts had made progress.

A statement by the conciliation group in Damascus Sunday said pro and anti-Arafat factions in Fatah and reaffirmed their commitment to a ceasefire that followed intensive fighting last month.

4 killed in Beirut shelling

ALEY (R) — A fierce artillery duel outside Beirut killed four people Monday, underlining the threat against government efforts to maintain peace once Israel pulls out its troops.

For six hours, shells and rockets were exchanged between rightist emplacements and Druze villages, killing four and wounding 19 people in the south Beirut suburb of Bourj Al Brajneh.

One rocket landed eight metres from the jeep of General Franco Angioli, commander of the Italian peacekeeping forces, showering him and his escorts with rubble but leaving them unhurt.

Rightists and Druze accused each other of deliberately shelling Bourj Al Brajneh, outside the usual line of fire and the site of a Palestinian refugee camp.

Residents of the Druze village in the hills above Beirut said it was one of the heaviest bombardments ever.

One local leader, Akram Shehayed, said Israeli troops nearby ended the battle by firing at Druze positions. The incident highlighted fears of what may happen when Israel withdraws its troops from the area in the next few days, leaving no one to break up fighting, he said.

An Israeli soldier in an outpost just outside Aley said his crew "kept our heads down" during the shelling.

The rightist Falangist radio said about 500 shells landed in rightist areas.

A Lebanese soldier was injured on the road near the international

(Continued on page 3)

Arabs asked to meet pledges to occupied territories fund

By Dina Matar
Reuters

AMMAN — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, set up in 1978 to channel money into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, has asked Arab states to pay their annual commitments to its fund, Palestinian sources said Monday.

An Arab summit in Baghdad in 1978 decided to contribute \$100 million a year to the committee's fund to help Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

But Saudi Arabia with a payment of \$18 million has been the only Arab state to meet its com-

mitment this year, the sources said.

The committee, headed by Minister for Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim and Khalil Al Wazir, top military aide of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, holds regular meetings in Amman. It has not met since May, when Mr. Wazir was forced to retreat to Tripoli in northern Lebanon after his expulsion from Syria.

But the sources said Mr. Wazir had decided to replace Mr. Wazir with Hani Al Hassan, Mr. Arafat's political adviser, to enable the committee to meet later this month.

Subversive plot thwarted, says Cameroun president

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroun's security services have foiled a plot against the state and arrested those involved, President Paul Biya said in a radio broadcast Monday.

The plotters had made a full confession and "appropriate sanctions" would be taken against them, he added.

Mr. Biya, who became president in November 1982 after the voluntary retirement of veteran head of state Ahmadou Ahidjo, gave no indication of how many

people had been arrested or when. Their identity was unknown but Mr. Biya said he would be reshuffling his cabinet, for the third time this year. He said he had already taken several political, military and administrative decisions.

"The national security services... have apprehended individuals whose mission was to strike at the security of the United Republic of Cameroun," Mr. Biya said in his surprise lunchtime broadcast.

Shagari's party takes lead in Nigerian Senate polls

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian President Shehu Shagari, returned to a second four-year term in the presidential election earlier this month, appeared set to win a comfortable majority in the Senate Monday after more results of Saturday's poll were announced.

Mr. Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN), which won 13 of the country's 19 state governorships nine days ago, has now captured 14 mainly southern Senate seats, wiping out an earlier lead by the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN).

The UPN has won all 10 seats in western Lagos and Ogun and two in west central Kwara, while the third major party, the eastern-based Nigerian People's Party (NPP), now has four seats in eastern Imo, one less than it won in the 1979 elections.

With results still to come from the NPN's stronghold states in the north and from some minority states which the NPN won in the governorship elections, Mr. Shagari looked certain to get the clear majority he needs in the upper house to carry out his programme and control the Nigerian economy.

Analysts said the returns so far were repeating the trend set in the presidential election, in which Mr. Shagari won a four-million-vote majority over Obafemi Awolowo of the UPN, his closest challenger.

The vote this Saturday was suspended in two of Awolowo's stronghold states — Oyo and Ogun — because of the violent protests against alleged ballot-rigging the governorship elections there the Saturday before.

French general follows strike aircraft into Chad

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 75711	Dr. Atef Al Dabbas	668384
Fire brigade	199	Al Salam pharmacy	36730
Blood bank	75121	Al Wasatiah pharmacy	22924
Civil Defence rescue	66111	Assaf pharmacy	52381
Fire headquarters	22908-3	First pharmacy	61913
Police rescue	192, 2111, 37777	Issad pharmacy	74822
Police headquarters	39141	Neil taxi	44433
Traffic police	56390-1	Grand Palais taxi	667079
Electric Power Co.	71125-8	Medical City taxi	81381-3
Municipal water service	71125-8	Faisal taxi	22051
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333	Rashed taxi	22025
		Tahel taxi	25021

HOSPITALS

Hussein Military Hospital	813813-32	Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek	75925
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman	44281-4	Al 'Awadim pharmacy	74532
Ashkhi Maternity, J. Amman	42441		
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362	ZARQA:	
Malhas, J. Amman	561-2	Dr. Yahia Hajjir	84534
Palatania, Shmeisani	664171-4	Al Wabdash	Rad's pharmacy (—)
Shmeisani Hospital	669131		
University Hospital	845845		
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein	667158		
Al-Munashir Hospital	667292-3		
The Islamic, Abdali	665292		
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164		
Itshan, Al-Muhajjeeb	77101-3		
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	75111		
Army, Marka	91611		

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. George Mash 76560

GENERAL

R Jordan Television	73111
Radio Jordan	74111
Ministry of Tourism	42311
Foreign complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone:	
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	16
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/low price in figs per kg.			
Apple (American)	430 / 400	Lemon	100 / 160
Apple (Smith)	400 / 350	Lemon (yellow)	300 / 250
Apple (local)	300 / 250	Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Banana	270 / 220	Marrow (small)	220 / 170
Banana (Mukammarr)	230 / 200	Mallow	70 / 50
Beans	260 / 230	Melon	100 / 70
Beans	260 / 230	Melon (super)	140 / 100
Cauliflower	120 / 100	Onion (dry)	130 / 100
Corn	250 / 220	Okra	230 / 200
Cabbage (white)	120 / 100	Peas	500 / 400
Corn	120 / 80	Peas	480 / 420
Cucumber (large)	180 / 120	Pepper (Sweet)	170 / 140
Cucumber (small)	300 / 250	Pepper (Hot Green)	220 / 180
Eggplant (large)	100 / 70	Plums (red)	260 / 200
Eggplant (small)	110 / 70	Potatoes	150 / 130
Figs	400 / 350	Radiash	120 / 100
Fatious	130 / 100	Squash	160 / 120
Garlic	320 / 250	Tomatoes	100 / 70
Grapes	220 / 180	Watermelon	100 / 70

THE NEWS

King, Queen attend Chinese performance

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Monday evening attended a performance by the Chinese acrobatic troupe, which had participated in the Second Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts. The performance, at the Palace of Culture, was also attended by Prime

Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Zaid Ibn Shaker, members of the Royal Family and Chinese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Jordan Ku Hsiao-Po.

Turkish trade show discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Arrangements for an exhibition of Turkish industrial products to be held in Amman were the topic of discussion Monday between Amman Chamber of Industry Director Ali Dajani and the Turkish commercial attaché in Jordan.

The exhibition, which will be held on Sept. 11, aims to introduce Turkish commercial, industrial and agricultural products besides promoting trade cooperation between Jordanian and Turkish institutions.



ROYAL WINGS: His Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein shows off his wings Monday after they had been presented to him by the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

Romanian embassy lauds relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Romania celebrates the anniversary of its National Day, Tuesday Aug. 23.

On the occasion, the Romanian embassy in Amman issued a statement stressing the links of friendship and cooperation which characterise relations between Jordan and Romania.

The basis of bilateral cooperation has been laid by President Ceausescu and His Majesty King Hussein during the five meetings they have had to date, the statement said.

The statement cited an announcement by President Ceausescu to the Non-Aligned Movement conference in New Delhi in which he stressed the need to double efforts to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and to safeguard that country's integrity, independence and sovereignty.

In his statement, the president called for an international conference to discuss the Middle East issue with the participation of all parties concerned including the

Ministry to construct hospital near Ajloun

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry announced Monday plans to construct a hospital near Ajloun to offer medical services to 48 towns and villages in the vicinity whose population totals 55,000.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the hospital will be set up near the Ishtafena intersection on a 21-dunum piece land, not far away from Ajloun. The ministry

Ministry to construct hospital near Ajloun

has now embarked on a topographic survey of the assigned plot of land which had been purchased by the ministry for this purpose, the spokesman said.

The hospital, he said, will offer outpatient and surgical treatment to the inhabitants of the Ajloun district in addition to the 20 health centres and child and mother care clinics scattered around the region.

Noor hosts Arab children's party at Nadwa Palace

By Saleemeh B. Nehmat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday received the visiting Arab children at the Nadwa Palace in Amman. The Arab children, who arrived earlier at Her Majesty's invitation, arrived in 14 delegations from 14 Arab states — as a part of the third joint Arab culture meeting which is held annually in Amman.

In Her Majesty's welcome to the Arab children which prefaced the booklet given to the Arab children, she said: "Dear children of the Arab World, it is my great pleasure that we welcome you in your country, Jordan, among your people and brothers. Your meeting today is an embodiment of the unity of our Arab World, and an expression of the bonds of love and understanding that link Arab with Arab wherever they are born, wherever they may be."

"Meeting with you is a meeting with the future. The eyes of the Arab World are focused upon you; you are its pride, its hope, the bearers of its message and the makers of its future. You meet today on Arab soil with the children of your nation building your friendships and fortifying your links."

"Tomorrow, as you assume your roles in building a better future and a better life for the generations to follow, let these days stay with you, a reminder of your unity, and brotherhood."

"From Al Hussein, from me, from the people of Jordan and from its children, a warm greeting and a sincere welcome."

Mr. Akram Masarweh, deputy director of the Youth and Welfare Organisation and the man in charge of the project, later delivered a speech in which he thanked Her Majesty Queen Noor on behalf of the Arab children. Also Taghreed Hadi, one of the children from the Iraqi delegation, delivered a speech to Her Majesty expressing her



feelings of gratitude on behalf of the Arab children and saying that she feels at home in Jordan and that the only hope for the future is to have Arab Unity, she said.

Coinciding with this event, is Her Majesty Queen Noor's birthday Tuesday August 23. The Queen was surprised by the Arab children who gave her presents to mark this occasion.

The Ministry of Social Development Saturday held a dinner for the 105 Arab children and their supervisors who arrived earlier Monday August 15 in Amman.

Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti who also attended the dinner, delivered a speech to the children and their supervisors emphasising the role of the ministry and its role in sponsoring such projects for Arab children. She also explained the importance of such projects in strengthening ties between Arab countries.

The minister later gave presents to the children and their supervisors which consisted of traditional costumes hand-sewn by several voluntary societies in Jordan. Mrs. Khawlah Kheir, who is in charge of organising the project from the ministry, earlier delivered a speech in which she welcomed the Arab children's delegation and thanked everyone who had made the event possible

The Arab children have already visited many tourist sites and cities in Jordan like Petra, Jerash, Ajloun, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, Hussein Sports City, the Amman amphitheatre, the National Museum, the institutions like Jordan Television, Al-Ahli Sports Club, the Haya Art Centre, Nadia Ahmad Al-Raeeny, 13 years-old and part of the Yemeni delegation, said "I have visited many places in Jordan like Petra and Jerash and I have also visited the city of Zarka which I found is not much different from Amman. I like the weather here in Jordan".

Nadia said, and the Jordanian people are very generous and hospitable. "There are no language problems she said, for we Arabs speak basically the same classical Arabic with a slight difference in accents which is no problem. I have many Jordanian friends now," she said, "and I have invited them to visit me in Yemen."

Demery Waheeb, a 12 year-old from Algeria said, "this is the first time for me outside Algeria. I like Jordan very much especially Petra and Jerash and I like the traditional costumes of Jordan. "We Arabs speak Arabic in different accents," he said, "but still we understand each other. At schools, we learn the classical Arabic language while at home, we speak the colloquial language which is

in my country, a mixture of Arabic and French. "We have many seaports in my country as well as deserts," he said "while in Jordan there is only one seaport", he added.

Ghaniah Hamad Nasser, a 13 year-old from the Omani delegation, said that the best part of her visit was when she was the guest of a Jordanian family for a whole day, where she met hospitable people and tasted delicious Jordanian and Palestinian foods. "We have become friends" she said, "and we are going to write to each other."

Ziadeh Aweiss, an 11 year-old girl from the Jordanian delegation, said "I am from Ajloun, and was chosen because of my good marks and conduct at school. I have very much enjoyed receiving our friends, the Arab children and enjoyed talking about our interests and hopes. We talked about our different folklore and traditions and expressed our hope for the day to come when the Arab World is united into a one big country with no borders in between. "We have discovered many things in common in our culture and traditions and we will keep in touch with each other in the future by exchanging letters."

The Arab children's visit to Amman will also include visits to other cities and tourist sites.

Graphics show slated for Aug. 27

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of graphics art is due to open on August 27 under the patronage of Princess Wijdan Ali at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani. The exhibition is organised by the Department of Culture and Arts in cooperation with the Polish Embassy in Amman.

The invitations to the Arab states, he said, were extended through the Arab embassies in Amman. Transportation for the visiting delegations was provided through round trip tickets by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Saal election arranged

AMMAN (Petra) — The appropriate authorities in the Irbid Governorate have started forming registration committees for municipal elections in the Irbid area is scheduled to take place on Dec. 14.

The voters' registration committee for Saal municipality in Irbid has specified Wednesday as the final day for registering the names of voters for elections.

NCC acts on Aqaba low income housing services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) Monday discussed the government's reply to a question by NCC member Attallah Al Kabariti on providing the Aqaba Housing Estate for low income families with water and electricity services.

The government said that the Aqaba Organising Committee had set up a committee urgently to draw up a timetable for the practical expansion of services to all areas in the city of Aqaba.

Mr. Kabariti thanked the government for the interest it had demonstrated in the issue.

A proposal to allocate funds for the asphaltting of the I'ra-Jordan Valley road was then referred to the government. Another sug-

gestion calling for the reconsideration of the regulations affecting trainee doctors was referred to the NCC's Social and Educational Committee.

A proposal for undertaking the organisational and administrative measures needed to implement the new traffic law was referred to the Public Service Committee.

The NCC also discussed three decisions made by its Legal Committee amending laws on land and water settlement, the formation of Islamic courts and sea trade. The amendments were then approved by the NCC.

Local firm awarded contract to build vocational training school at Ruseifa

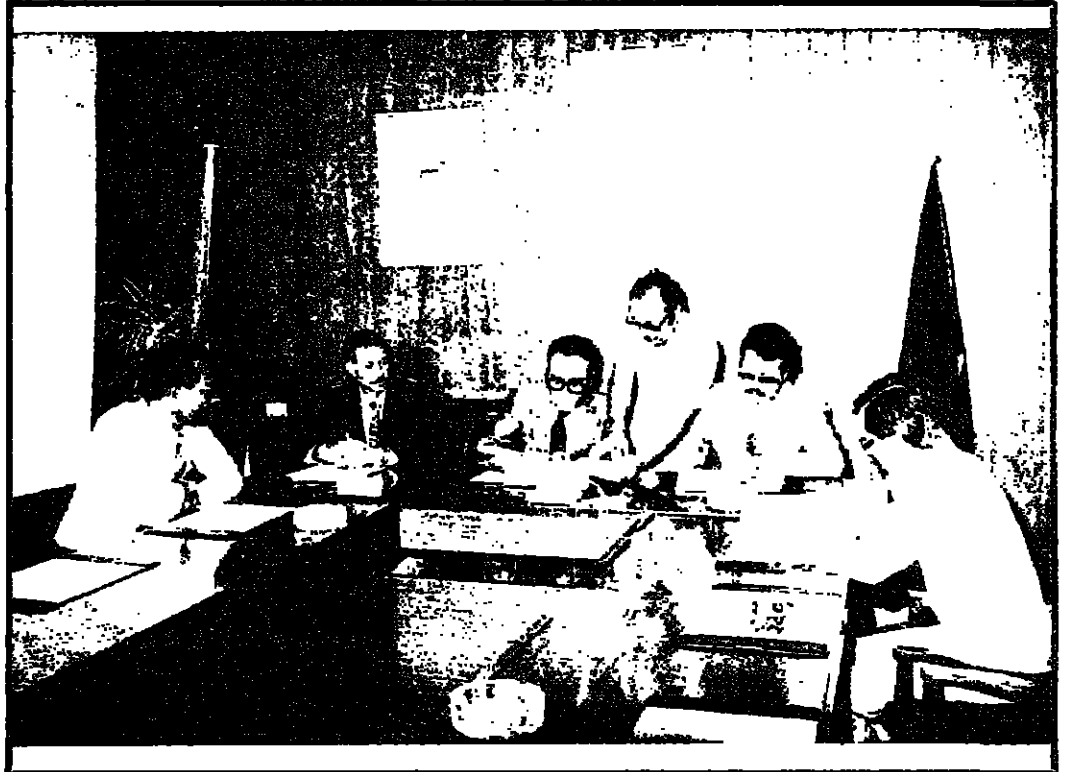
AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed at the Ministry of Education Monday for the construction of a vocational training school for boys at Ruseifa at the cost of JD 1,236,747.

The school, which will accommodate 1,140 students, will be built on a plot of land estimated at

10,470 square metres and will take 26 months to complete, according to the agreement.

The vocational school will offer training on postal, commercial and industrial subjects as well as diesel mechanics, welding, industrial electricity, central heating, plumbing, precision instruments

and telecommunications. The vocational school is part of the ministry's fourth educational programme which is partly financed by a World Bank loan. The agreement was signed by Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal and the manager of the local company which will implement the project.



Ministry of Education Sa'id Al Tal and the manager of a local firm Monday sign a contract for the building of a new vocational training school at Ruseifa (Petra photo)

Four killed in Lebanese shelling

(Continued from page 1)

airports which Druze shellfire kept closed for six days earlier this month.

A new threat to close the airport unless Lebanese army positions near the airport stopped shelling Druze areas was issued Monday in Damascus by the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

The government of President Amin Gemayel wants to replace the Israelis, who have said they will pull out within a few days, by the newly re-formed Lebanese regular army.

But Druze leader Walid Junblat has said Lebanese soldiers will not be accepted as peacekeepers unless the government agrees to radical reforms giving Lebanon's estimated 300,000 Druze a share in running the country.

Without Israelis or Lebanese

regulars to keep the communities apart, a new chapter of civil war was widely regarded as inevitable.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Shehayed did nothing to dispel this prospect. "If the Israelis leave and no Lebanese soldiers replace them we will have to attack the Christian positions in order to establish a supply route," Mr. Shehayed said.

"At present the Falangists have us completely surrounded," he said. "We are well armed. We have artillery and T-55 tanks. And every Druze is a born fighter."

"The crisis must come soon. The Israelis have already moved about 50 per cent of their forces out of the area."

But Israeli officers declined to say what proportion of their men and equipment had transferred to new defence lines set up along the Awali River 25 kilometres south of Beirut.

Israel's high command warned last week the withdrawal would take place within days, but Israeli tanks and troops were still well in evidence Monday on the hills above Beirut.

"We are keeping enough equipment here to defend ourselves right to the last moment," one officer said. "When we do move it will probably happen quite quickly."

Some political sources suspected the Israelis might be putting psychological pressure on the Lebanese, hoping they would forge a new national accord that would permit deployment of the Lebanese army in areas evacuated by Israeli troops.

The government has assigned a three-man ministerial team to seek reconciliation, even if only temporarily, between Druze, rightists and the rest of Lebanon's chronically warring factions.

Stylised version of Sleeping Beauty makes an indelible impression

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Empire State Institute of Performing Arts' production of Sleeping Beauty at the Jerash Festival was a stunning event. One might have had certain reservations about American actors performing an ancient fairy tale in traditional Japanese dress in front of a Jordanian audience, but the combination worked beautifully. Both children and adults were spellbound and at times so attentive to the events on the old stone stage of Jerash's southern amphitheatre that you could have heard a bird drop.

The reasons why are not hard to find. The actors' performances were difficult to fault. Basing their movements and gestures on the highly stylised ones of Kabuki Theatre, the actors glided around the stage, their bodies often expressing more than the gently humorous narrative. Certain moments left an indelible impression on the mind — the king's white gloved hands beckoning all to come and help him celebrate the birth of his "long-awaited-for child, Beauty, 15 years later, dancing at her "coming out" party, one single movement conveying a delightful modesty behind which

was a vitality, a curiosity, a lust for life which leads to that long, long sleep. The way the ladies-in-waiting gently flutter as Beauty waits by and the soundless leaping of the agile and resourceful prince.

Then there were the costumes and the stage sets. Made from soft-flowing silken fabrics the traditional looking Japanese costumes gracefully enhanced the actors' movements. But much more than this it was the sheer beauty of their pure bright colours — the sunshine yellows, the fiery reds, the royal purples the moss greens and the muted ochres and their gorgeous combinations that stole the show.

Designed by Marsha Eck, the stage sets were also cleverly original. Essentially the set was based on that of the Noh Theatre, the classic, lyrical theatre of Japan, with Kabuki props. This means that there were no scene changes but instead a permanent stage where certain aspects of the scenery were described symbolically (for example the palace was represented by four poles) and by screens. Beautifully painted on one side with Fuji mountains and Sora-sake like breakers and with colourful stripes on the other, these screens also provided a way for the

characters to enter and exit the stage area without distracting the audience by blackouts between the scenes. It was the character of the orgeous however, who generated the most original ideas for props, for she was also an enormous spider with red and white talons of prodigious length and legs that unfolded in dangerously long coils from her waist. For her, Miss Eck designed a spider's web whose black elasticated threads were alarmingly real and a litter from whose cramped quarters the progress snapped and snarled at her whimpering assistants.

ART REVIEW

ESIPA have been refining their version of Sleeping Beauty for almost five years and the result is not only a gratifyingly professional production but one which has been reduced to its clearest and most communicative form. "If our production of Sleeping Beauty tells the story without the help of words, then we have achieved what is our perception of Kabuki Theatre", John Thomas McGuire III, Beauty's prince, told the Jordan Times. And it was because of this very visual element that Sleeping Bea-

uty was chosen from their repertoire for Jerash, the movements and the music transcending any language barrier.

But more importantly than any effect Sleeping Beauty may have had on its audiences at Jerash this time is the way the play indicates the road forward for children's theatre not only at future Jerash Festivals but in the country as a whole. Children's theatre here in Jordan is still virgin territory, virtually uncharted ground and because it is creating the audiences of the future it is essential that children's theatre is begun along the right lines. With eight years in this field behind them already, there is much that can be learnt from ESIPA.

"Back home we are putting our time, money and effort into starting an audience so that we will always have an audience," said Mr. McGuire. "So what we try to do is generate in the children the same respect we have for our art and our craft so our standards are very high. With our productions we try to educate the children to expect more and to appreciate the art and the artists. In order to do this we like to provide more contact between the artist and the audience, so at the end of each

show the actors go out in full costume to meet the children. The children love this and often it is the first time they realise that the character they have just seen on the stage is a person too. We also realise that we have to please the adults — they are the ones who are spending the money, so we have to put on a play that they can enjoy and consider worth spending money on."

Comments about playing in the amphitheatre at Jerash ranged from "it was terribly exciting thinking that this had been going on for 2,000 years" to "it was hard on the feet". Apart from the wonderful atmosphere and the good acoustics, the actual stage at Jerash presented the actors with some problems. Being narrow and long, the players had to cover large distances quickly, as well as try to fill its unusual lateral space effectively. Also the distance of the audience from the stage tended to divorce it from the players and the action. Three notes for the future therefore might be to provide a wooden stage over the old stone stage for all productions as was provided for Fayrouz and her troupe, to allow people to sit nearer the stage and finally, especially for children's theatre, make the

tickets much cheaper. At JD 3 a ticket a lot of children who might have potentially enjoyed Sleeping Beauty missed a lovely experience.

"We realise we have come at the very beginning of theatre in Jordan" concluded Mr. McGuire. "and as with a building, people may forget who put the first stones

down, but the important thing is that they were laid. We have put one of those first stones down in the best way we can with one of our best performances."



The prince-armed with fog, combats warriors who cannot see him in a scene from "Sleeping Beauty", adapted by Robert Show in collaboration with the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts.

Jordan Times

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What price settlement?

PRIME Minister Mudar Badran's statement Monday that American policy in the Middle East was pushing the region towards war is not an empty warning to the policy-makers in Washington. Nor is it just another public criticism of America's veto last month of the U.N. Security Council draft resolution demanding that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories be dismantled. The prime minister's statement is a true representation of today's Middle East facts that the U.S. government cannot for any longer afford to ignore.

Is it really difficult for anybody to understand how the American attitude on Israel's settlement activities on the West Bank would have to lead the area into new confrontations and endless strife and bloodshed?

The U.S., or rather the present administration, is not willing to consider Israeli settlements as illegal. "Unhelpful to the peace process, maybe". Thus, the settlements' status should be left for negotiations, U.S. officials maintain. Well, if that should be the case, what would be the point, for us in Jordan as well as the Arab World, to enter into talks with the Israelis and the Americans over whether the Israeli occupation of Arab lands is legitimate or not? May we ask. The Arabs might as well resist to the end if the only question that is bugging the Americans is starting negotiations that are doomed to failure at a cost of immeasurable proportions. Furthermore, the United States, as His Majesty King Hussein pointed out in an interview published in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, has previously supported U.N. resolutions condemning territorial gains through war, and the sudden shift in American policy to veto the Security Council draft resolution could only be a very dangerous and shocking development indeed.

For the Americans to maintain that the settlements are just "unhelpful" to peace is like saying the assassination of a PLO official in Athens the other day is also an equal obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace — when in fact the problem is much more dangerous and complicated than that.

There will be war in this region if Washington will not exert pressure on the Israelis to stop their colonisation of the occupied territories, simply because Israel would not listen to the voice of reason on its own; in any other way, and because the Arabs would have war as the only option left for them to regain their rights.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Challenge to Arab Nation

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's statement to the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post published here Monday reflects the deep feeling of pain, indignation, denunciation as well as shock which every Arab citizen felt towards the U.S. action of vetoing an Arab resolution at the U.N. Security Council. The U.S. vetoed a resolution demanding that all Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories be dismantled. This veto represents a new regression in America's policies with regard to Zionist settlements in Arab lands and towards Israeli aggressive policies in our region. The U.S., as King Hussein said, had earlier voiced its support for U.N. resolutions against such settlements and backed international denunciations of the policy of acquiring other countries' lands by force. But at a later stage, Washington reneged on its previous stand by declaring that the settlements were merely an obstacle to peace efforts, and then it said that the settlement policy is not conducive to peace. Washington continued on this course of retreat until at last it announced at the security council its clear stand toward this issue. It said that it rejects the idea of dismantling Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. This can only mean one thing that Washington considers these settlements as both legal and legitimate. In our view, this change reflects a confusion in Washington's policy and a failure to shoulder the responsibility of a superpower towards peace in the Middle East and the world at large.

Al Dustour: More U.S.-backed disasters

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's denunciation of the American veto in an interview with two American newspapers represents Jordan's official stand towards the issue of the Israeli settlement policy and Washington's two-faced dealings. No other Arab leader had thus far analysed and denounced such underhand dealing by a superpower which is supposed to be the guardian of world peace. King Hussein described the American veto of the Arab-backed resolution calling for a dismantling of Israeli settlements as totally unacceptable and constituting a very serious change to Washington's policies. He also warned of the grave consequences of such policies because Washington is now openly supporting Israel's policy of building more settlements in the occupied Arab land in violation of U.N. resolution 242.

If Washington believes that its stand over the settlement issue, its unlimited military and financial assistance for Israel and its failure to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon would not affect its relations with the Arab states, then it is deceiving itself. The Arab people will never forget that the U.S. is totally responsible for the Palestinian tragedy, and for supplying the Israeli enemy with the arms necessary to carry out its acts of aggression against the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Washington beyond absolution

THE AMERICAN veto at the U.N. Security Council makes Washington an accessory to Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people and places it in direct confrontation with every Arab country and all other nations which seek freedom, peace and justice. Washington's veto was a green light to Israel to pursue its settlement policies in the occupied Arab lands pending an official annexation of these lands to the Zionist state. How can Washington justify its opposition to and hampering of the council's condemnation of Israeli settlement policies while it continues to claim that it considers these settlements illegal? How can Washington justify this policy when it considers the settlements as an obstacle to peace? How can it justify its support for the council resolution 242 when it in fact undermines the basis of that resolution?

No matter how hard it tries, the U.S. can never justify the contradiction of its policies regarding the Palestine issue and its totally biased attitude towards Israel.



CIA covert aid to 'Contras' takes covert ways to check

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Five months after they predicted imminent victory, the leaders of U.S.-backed insurgents fighting Nicaragua's left-wing government admit they have started a war they cannot hope to win.

"There can be no purely military victory," said Edgar Chamorro, a key figure in the seven-member directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). "There should be negotiations."

Last March, Mr. Chamorro described FDN guerrillas fighting inside Nicaragua as "the vanguard of the general insurrection." One of his directorate colleagues confidently proclaimed that "we shall be rejoicing in liberated territory within 60 days."

At that time, an FDN force estimated at around 2,000 was fighting in northwestern and central Nicaragua after slipping across the border from Honduras. But they failed to spark an uprising and were driven back to the rugged mountains along the frontier.

Now FDN leaders say they need more money, more arms, and many more men to convince the Nicaraguan government it must negotiate with the right-wing insurgents — an objective that falls far short of the FDN's original declared aim.

"We have 10,000 men now," Mr. Chamorro said in a recent interview with Reuters. "But we want to build up our force to 25,000." This would match the strength of Nicaragua's regular army.

With the help of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the FDN blossomed from a motley group of 500 to its present size in less than two years.

U.S. assistance to the FDN, by far the largest of several exile groups opposed to Nicaragua's ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), has sparked an angry debate in the United States.

Last month, the House of Representatives in Washington approved an amendment ordering President Reagan to stop covert aid to Nicaraguan insurgents.

The vote came against the background of reports that the administration was planning to step up assistance to what are known here as "contras," short for counter-revolutionaries.

According to U.S. press reports, the CIA has asked for \$80 million to finance the contras in the fiscal year beginning in October.

Mr. Chamorro and his FDN colleagues are confident the house vote will have no practical effect, saying neither the Senate nor Mr. Reagan will approve the amendment required to make it law.

FDN chiefs say they want to boost their fighting strength to wear down the Sandinists and force them to discuss demands for democratic reforms, an end to ties with the Soviet Union and Cuba, and a pledge to stop exporting Marxist revolution.

There are no predictions on how long this might take, but directorate member Indalecio Rodriguez recently described the prospect of the Sandinists negotiating with the FDN as "remote, as things stand now."

The insurgents apparently feel a massive show of military muscle by the United States. However, might make the Managua leadership more amenable to talks.

Last month, Washington sent two powerful naval battle groups to patrol off Nicaragua's coasts in advance of joint manoeuvres with Honduras involving up to 5,600 American ground troops, the biggest war games ever staged in the area.

"The only language the Sandinists understand is the language of force," commented Mr. Chamorro. "They must be addressed in that language."

However, diplomatic analysts in Central America consider an accommodation between the Sandinists and FDN highly unlikely.

The FDN's military leadership is made up chiefly of former members of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, which fled Nicaragua in 1979 at the end of the civil war which brought the Sandinists to power.

The link with the Somoza era at Israel and the fact that Baha'is come here on pilgrimage and try to make a connection," Mr. Barrett told Reuters.

Baha'i leaders reject all spying charges, emphasising that their faith forbids political activity.

Some Iranian Baha'is are charged with espionage and signed declarations recanting their faith and were set free, said Mr. Barrett. "This proves that the charges of spying are absolutely false."

The Baha'i faith was founded in Persia during the middle of the last century, based on the liberal religious preaching of Seyid Mohammad Ali, known as "The Babi".

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Weinberger sees America should give nothing away

The growing U.S. involvement in Central America and the international threat from the hostilities in Chad are only two of the problems which led American service chiefs to express fears of the U.S. becoming over-committed. Jon Connell interviews U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the man in one of President Reagan's hot seats.

REMINDING that his own newly appointed Army Chief of Staff General John Wickham, was among those who had warned of the danger of the U.S. "stretching itself too thin", Caspar Weinberger stated the problem as he sees it: "The question I always ask, and never get an answer to, is, what should we give up? Should we give up the defence of the continental United States? Should we give the NATO, or Korea, or Japan, or our interests in the Middle East, Israel or the oilfields?"

"All I get is that there's this mismatch (between strategy and resources), and that we're trying to do too many things at once. But we live in a world, we did not make, and we don't have very many options."

In Mr. Weinberger's mind, there is not the faintest doubt as to the source of most — if not all — of this aggravation. Whatever others may feel, he sees no easing in what he describes as the Soviet Union's "extremely aggressive and warlike posture". The Soviet military buildup, he says, has continued unchecked for 21 years and there is no sign of it abating.

"Bad economic conditions, bad harvests, an inability to feed their own country, and a quality of life that you and I wouldn't tolerate — none of this has slowed them down."

The result, according to Mr. Weinberger, is a threat which now affects parts of the globe once considered relatively safe. "We face a potential opponent who has a growing capability to operate in more than one theatre at once and who has, directly or through its client states, a very vital interest in increasing its strength in Korea, in Japan and in the Pacific."

"They (the Russians) are putting more of their fleet into the Pacific than into any other part of the world. They're increasing their air force there, too. Meanwhile, they have increased their shipments to Cuba very markedly. And they are trying to set up a client state in Nicaragua."

The object of stretching the U.S. in this manner, Mr. Weinberger suggested, was to weaken its relationship with Europe.

"The Soviets know quite well that if they can pose a sufficient threat to the U.S. — while at the same time working on our public opinion — and build on the inherent isolation that is still reasonably close to the surface in the U.S. they can perhaps create a climate in which we will

have to bring a lot of what we have in NATO home."

That would be a mistake, he added, since it would play into Soviet hands. It is a feeling, nonetheless, which a number of U.S. administration officials have voiced recently in their anxiety to win European support for President Reagan's Central American policy.

Parallel with this situation, as Weinberger sees it, the nuclear threat continues to grow. While he, like Mr. Reagan, takes care nowadays to point out that "we don't think a nuclear war can be won," he claims that the Russians "continue to do a lot of things that indicate they believe they can fight and win a nuclear war."

"They're acquiring more heavy and very accurate missiles, hardening their missile silos, increasing the number of their submarines and spending a lot of money on civil defence."

Weinberger finds little cause for hope in the nuclear weapons talks at Geneva. "The only thing they've talked about there is moving some of their SS20s east of the Urals, which is totally irrelevant. The SS20 is mobile and can be back in Europe in a matter of hours."

He scornfully dismissed the Soviet threat to take "counter-measures" if the West began to deploy new cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe this Christmas. "The trouble is that the Soviets 'retaliated' in 1977 for something that never happened. They started putting in SS20s then and they have continued at a very high rate. They now have well over 360, probably closer to 370. They are still putting in one a week."

The threat to put new missiles in eastern Europe meant little, he said, because "they already have missiles there" — and though there were no SS20s in Cuba as yet, "they shipped more military equipment to Cuba in the calendar year 1982 than in any single year since the sixties."

Mr. Weinberger's tone throughout the interview was one of unremitting hostility to the Soviet Union. Others, in the White House and elsewhere, may be talking more about flexibility — or, at least, about ensuring that the Russians are seen as the ones dragging their feet at Geneva — but the defence secretary is clearly fighting a spirited rearguard action against any temptation to give much away.

Baha'i leaders claim Tehran seeks liquidating followers

By Daniel Grebler
Reuter

HAIFA — Officials at the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa have accused Iran's fundamentalist Islamic rulers of trying to destroy the Baha'i community in Iran systematically.

"This systematic campaign is intensifying, and the intensity of our appeal and concern has increased," said Donald Barrett, a retired American lawyer who is now secretary-general of the Baha'i International Community.

"Baha'is dread the ringing of a

telephone," said Mr. Barrett. "Every time the telephone rings, we hear that another Baha'i has been imprisoned or executed in Iran because of his faith."

The Muslim clergy have accused members of Iran's Baha'i community, which numbers more than 300,000 people, of being spies for the United States and Israel.

The Baha'i World Centre has been in Haifa since 1868, but the Iranian authorities often point to the fact that it is in Israel in support of their spying charges.

"Because we are here, the fundamental Iranian extremists look

at Israel and the fact that Baha'is come here on pilgrimage and try to make a connection," Mr. Barrett told Reuters.

Baha'i leaders reject all spying charges, emphasising that their faith forbids political activity.

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(the gate), who was executed in 1851.

Despite its Persian origin and its acceptance of the Koran, the faith is not a sect of Islam. The universalist faith also preaches the tenets of Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Christianity.

"Each age has a mediator or a prophet," said Mr. Barrett. "Each major religion expresses a particular facet of divine truth."

Christians and Jews and even Zoroastrians are recognised by the Iranian constitution. But Baha'is, the largest minority, are

not. This is primarily because the Baha'i prophet came after "Mohammed," making his teachings heretical in the eyes of strict Muslims.

But the fact that the Baha'is were said to be prominent supporters of the late Shah's rule also helped to make the sect officially suspect today.

The prophet Baha'ullah (the glory of God), whose coming was foretold by the Babi, was exiled from Persia to Palestine in 1868 and died in Acre in 1892. His fol-

lowers made nearby Haifa their world centre.

Until recently, officials here refrained from commenting publicly on the persecution of Iranian Baha'is for fear of drawing attention to their ties with Israel. The centre relied primarily on diplomatic appeals to world leaders in the hope that they could influence Tehran.

But an upsurge in attacks on Iranian Baha'is led to a change in policy. "It just didn't seem to matter any more that a report emanated from Israel," said Mr. Barrett.

LETTERS

Heavenly and political

To the Editor:

I receive my mornings daily by reading the Jordan Times which enlightens my mind and, telling the truth, on very special occasions brings warmth to my heart. Yet no words can describe the effect of Marwan Muasher's article in the Jordan Times (August 20, 1983). I cannot but only thank Mr. Muasher for summarising the greatness of Fayrouz and putting into words the feelings we all experience while listening to Fayrouz songs. Still I would like to add few words to Mr. Muasher's article. If I am allowed to.

Fayrouz did and is still filling the Arab World with all the heavenly beauty, happiness and genuine feelings which are rapped by the savage wars. Fayrouz did achieve the task which several Arab conventions failed to achieve. Fayrouz defied all the artificial boundaries and succeeded to spread peace and unity among the individuals of the Arab World. Therefore the only moment we forget the difficulties and the dangers threatening our Arab World and enjoy peace and unity is when we hear Fayrouz sing. Thus she is not only "Our Ambassador to Ourselves", but I am sure she is "Our main Ambassador to Peace and Unity".

M. Mameel,
Amman

Britain makes a state of St. Kitts-Nevis

By Bertram Gilliland
Reuter

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts — St. Kitts-Nevis, one of the last British outposts in the Caribbean, prepares for independence next month with controversy still raging over the constitutional deal given to the smaller island of Nevis.

The twin-island state, scene of the first British settlement in the West Indies in 1623, will end 16 years of associated statehood with Britain on Sept. 19.

The 272-square kilometre state will be known as the Federation of St. Christopher-Nevis, but the constitution of that federation remains a bone of contention.

The three major political parties are divided on the so-called Nevis settlement, which gives the 95-square kilometre smaller island a greater say in the running of its own affairs.

The opposition Labour Party has charged that Nevis will benefit too much from the new constitutional arrangements, while the government of Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds says the settlement with Nevis could be seen

throughout the Caribbean as a model for resolving conflicts among multi-island states.

Mr. Simmonds says the constitutional arrangements were designed to give some protection to the minority — Nevis has some 12,000 inhabitants against 37,000 on St. Kitts — and to allow the smaller island a proper voice in the running of the federation.

There had been fears that the size, greater economic resources and high level of development of St. Kitts would swamp Nevis and lead to a resurgence of the secession question.

In 1967, the neighbouring island of Anguilla unilaterally declared independence from St. Kitts and Nevis and opted to remain a British colony. Anguillan leader Ronald Webster successfully repulsed an invasion by a St. Kitts police task force and formally seceded from the federation in 1969.

Another point at issue is a dispute among the three major parties of St. Kitts-Nevis as to whether there should be elections before independence.

The opposition Labour Party, which ruled for 27 years until a

stunning election defeat in 1980, says the government does not have a mandate for independence without elections.

But Mr. Simmonds, who head a coalition government of the Peoples Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP), argues that fresh polls are not needed as all parties agreed during the last election campaign that independence was desirable and indeed inevitable.

Mr. Simmonds has attacked Cuba for attempts to interfere in the island's internal affairs, and the new federation shows no signs of following socialist Grenada into Cuba's sphere of influence.

"We found out that Cuba was offering scholarships to St. Kitts students clandestinely and often to people with definite anti-government views," he said recently.

Volcanic and among the most spectacular of the Leeward islands, St. Kitts-Nevis relies on sugar for 70 per cent of its export income and is heavily dependent on imports of food and machinery.

It produced just over 35,000 tons of sugar last year, well below

recent crops of more than 50,000 tons. With low world sugar prices, the islands face trade deficits for years to come.

The federation has a gross domestic product of only \$30 million, but Mr. Simmonds is pinning high hopes on tourism. The government has started investing in hotel construction, and regular flights from Miami began last year.

Princess Margaret will represent Britain at the independence ceremonies when, at midnight on Sept. 19, St. Kitts-Nevis will lower its green, yellow and blue flag to hoist the green, yellow, black and red standard of the new nation.

A new coat of arms and a new national anthem have been chosen, and the motto of "unity is trinity," used before the secession of Anguilla, will be replaced by "a country above self."

Nevis-born singer Joan Armatrading will attend the celebrations and American actress Cicely Tyson, of Nevisian parentage, is expected to open the restored birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, the first Treasury secretary of the United States.

Hunt for Nessie continues after 50 years

By Brian Cathcart
Reuter

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland — The search for the Loch Ness monster is now 50 years old and though the world still sneers and the trial is dotted with failures there is no shortage of eager hunters.

Scattered along the shores of the long, narrow lake are armies of

dedicated searchers, combing the surface and probing the deep for a clue of the mystery of the world's best-known unidentified swimming object.

It all began in the summer of 1933 when the wife of a local hotelier told a few friends about a strange, whale-like creature she had seen swimming and diving on the loch.

Among her audience was a re-

porter for a newspaper in nearby Inverness and the story was soon in print. It was a lean period for news and the national newspapers in London gratefully turned the monster into sensation.

Monster enthusiasts say there was a tradition around Loch Ness that a "water-horse" inhabited the depths and they point to reported sightings as far back as the sixth century A.D., but it was the

1933 headlines that put the monster on the map.

Since then there have been 3,000 sightings, a few grainy photographs, some of them fakes, and some embarrassing hoaxes.

In 1934 footprints proudly claimed as the monster's turned out to have been made by a hippopotamus foot normally kept in Somebody's Hall as an umbrella-stand.

More recently a mysterious, blurry object tentatively identified as a monster corpse was found to be the remains of an elephant seal, dumped in the lake by a zoo employee as a joke.

While the fakes and hoaxes made news a series of scientific expeditions through the 1950's and 60's failed to solve the mystery, and the cynics smirked with satisfaction.

But the hunt has gone on, and if you think only a deluded crank would spend his summers looking for monsters in a Scottish lake, you are wrong.

Londoner Adrian Shine, 34, has been on the trail for 10 years but he is under no illusions: "If anything I am more sceptical now than I was when I started," he said.

Mr. Shine, who has doubts about almost all the film and photographic evidence gathered to date, heads a volunteer group carrying out a painstaking survey of the 23-mile (37 kilometre) long lake using sonar equipment mounted on a large rubber dinghy.

Last year, in 1,500 hours probing the 700-foot (230-metre) depths, his team made 40 "contacts" with something he describes cautiously as "deep, apparently large, and apparently moving."

Far from claiming success, they are spending this year trying to prove that what they spotted was not a monster.

Mr. Shine, who works in factory management when he is not at Loch Ness, has his team investigating the movements of clouds of plankton beneath the surface.

They are also analysing oddities in the behaviour of sonar beams in the steep-sided, flat-bottomed lake, and studying underwater waves set off where the surface water, warmed by the sun, meets the colder waters of the depths.

It is a shoe-string exercise, funded in part by 54-sterling (\$80) contributions from each volunteer, but what they lack in money they make up for in determination.

"With all the sightings and the contacts, we are not going to turn our back on Loch Ness until we



A picture supposedly of the Loch Ness monster, Nessie.

have a satisfactory explanation," says Mr. Shine.

Like Mr. Shine, Alan Kiehl and Rikki Razdan do not really believe in the monster either. But if it is there, the two young men from Rochester, New York, say that as specialists in electronic tracking systems they alone can prove it.

At their base not far from Mr. Shine's frugal camp on the north lake shore, they have set up a sonar tracking grid linked to a barrage of harpoon guns.

The floating grid is around 20-foot (seven metres) square and looks straight down into the depths at a spot near the ruin of Urquhart Castle, scene of many sightings.

The harpoons, a yard (metre) long, would be fired at anything large swimming into the sonar picture and take a small flesh sample for scientific examination to determine chromosome patterns from which species of animals can be identified.

Mr. Kiehl says: "You can fake photographs, you can fake film,

and sonar alone does not prove much, but chromosomes can't lie."

He and Mr. Shine may profess themselves sceptical, but Erik Beckjord of the National Cryozoological Society of Seattle, Washington, has no doubts at all. "Yes," he says, "I believe in the monster and I just think we have to be systematic and we will get it clearly pictured on film and be able to identify it -- or them."

Beckjord uses a slow-action video camera and night-viewing equipment developed in the Vietnam war to record what happens on a patch of lake surface for up to 240 hours at a time.

Then he checks for monster sightings. This year he claims two possible sightings, both distant and indistinct, but he plans to keep coming back until he puts the matter beyond dispute.

Also at work on the lakeside are an Englishman who has been there for 14 years hoping to capture "Nessie" with his camera, and an electronics dealer with a launch full of sonar gear.

Kremlin leaders waging war on pop music

By Martin Nesirky

MOSCOW — Soviet pop groups and their fans are having their wings clipped as part of a clampdown on what the Kremlin sees as a flood of foreign culture.

Soviet musicians, many of them influenced by Western bands, have been told they have until October to begin playing more ideologically suitable music or stop playing altogether.

Pop fans in Moscow have found their bars and discotheques transformed into sober cafes where dancing is not permitted.

Western diplomats say both players and listeners are feeling the burn of the Soviet leadership's latest attack on cultural adventure.

Since the Communist Party's central committee plenum in June, when party Secretary Konstantin Chernenko made a sharp attack on pop music and the arts in general, the number of critical articles in the Soviet press has risen significantly.

But Westerners trace the start of the hardline trend in culture to the year before when Yuri Andropov was responsible for party ideology, the job now held by Chernenko.

Andropov, now president, initiated a party decree then calling for greater orthodoxy in literature.

This order for a return to the 1930s policy of "Socialist realism" which stressed the value of the positive Communist hero, has since been extended to cover art, theatre, cinema and now music.

Chernenko's speech last June, apart from reasserting his position at the forefront of Kremlin politics, echoed Andropov's earlier decree. Chernenko scathingly dismissed Western culture as shallow and charged that it was harmful to Soviet youth.

Speeches and articles have led to action, gradually in some cases, rapidly in others.

Late last month Soviet cultural officials said pop musicians had until October 1 to turn from what they called low quality performances of doubtful content to music on a higher ideological level.

Some groups, including the award-winning "Korobayniki" (pedlars), have already been banned.

The headline Sovetskaya Kultura newspaper criticised another top band, "Vesolye Rebyata" (Happy Kids) for distorting traditional Russian tunes. The Happy Kids, the Pedlars and others have been told to alter their repertoires and their clothes. Sovetskaya Kultura said some performed in attire more suitable for the "Wild West."

Bands in restaurants and hotels are already playing less Western and more Soviet music, often delivered at high volume through vintage speakers.

At one restaurant not far from Red Square a group featuring an attractive young woman in a low-cut dress risked only one Italian song and one American disco number for the army officers present. They clearly approved.

At the "Blue Bird" bar, once one of Moscow's most popular places, a Western correspondent recently tried to dance. He was soon told by the manager this was no longer allowed.

Other dimly-lit bars in which Western music competed with conversation have been closed temporarily, only to reopen as cafes where conversation dominates.

Although some disco bars remain, Soviet young people say the best nightspots have gone for good and that it is only a matter of time before the others are closed.

The "Bar on Petrovka," a highly popular meeting place near the Bolshoi Theatre where young Russians danced to Western music, was closed two months ago and is now a quiet cafe.

Despite official attempts to limit Soviet youth's access to Western music in public places, many young people play pirated tapes of leading British, French and U.S. bands at home.

They avidly discuss the merits of the British band "Dexy's Midnight Runners" and American vocalist Grace Jones.

Sensing their continued interest in Western groups, Sovetskaya Kultura fiercely attacked Britain's cult pop star, Adam Ant, saying he attempted to numb the Western teenager's sense of despair at unemployment.

Western diplomats say the cultural crackdown appears to be part of Andropov's general drive to introduce a more austere and responsible style of life.

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SPORTS

Wilander stuns McEnroe

MASON, Ohio (R) — Swedish teenager Mats Wilander scored a stunning 6-4, 6-3 win over top-seeded John McEnroe on Sunday to win the \$300,000 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) championship.

Wilander, whose 19th birthday is on Monday, was previously known as a top clay court player. But on Sunday he showed his versatility by taking his first hard court championship with a victory over the world's top ranked player.

In the semi-finals on Saturday, Wilander shocked defending champion and second-seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-0, 6-3. In winning his first tournament in the U.S., Wilander lost just one set — and that came in the first round.

"Now I know that if I play very well and if John or Ivan have an off day I can beat them on this surface," said Wilander, who won \$48,000.

"I know now myself that I can play on other surfaces" added Wilander, who won the French Open last year on clay and lost in the finals this year.

"This is the best I've seen him play on this type of court," said McEnroe, 24, the 1981 winner and three-time U.S. Open Champion. "He served much better than I thought and volleyed better."

"He played aggressively. I couldn't get on top of him. If this is an indication of things to come, it's going to be tough playing him."

Wilander played all facets of the

game well in the 90-minute match. In six of his 10 service games Wilander had at least one ace or service winner. He started the match with an ace and finished with six. McEnroe, a renowned big server, had seven.

Wilander kept McEnroe off-guard at the net with pinpoint passing shots mixed with perfectly executed lobs.

On the other hand, McEnroe looked listless. This could have had something to do with Wilander's superb play, but also with McEnroe's grueling schedule during the tournament.

He played a series of tough singles and doubles matches in scorching weather and was on court until midnight Saturday in a doubles match.

Navratilova beats Lloyd to take Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — World number one player Martina Navratilova beat Chris Evert Lloyd 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 on Sunday to take the Canadian Open women's singles title.

The uneven 90-minute match was Navratilova's fourth consecutive win over Lloyd.

Navratilova was pressed to three sets for only the fifth time this year in gaining her 11th singles championship and 23rd consecutive win of the year.

Navratilova, 26, said: "I know she can play a little better, but I can play a whole lot better."

Lloyd, 28, said: "She was bea-

table today, but then I didn't play my best tennis either."

The game was close until the third set when Navratilova powered to a 4-0 lead, breaking Lloyd's serve in both the second and fourth games.

In the last game she smashed a volley for a 5-1 lead then hit a cross-court forehand to take the title.

In the doubles final, the seventh-ranked team of American Andrea Jaeger and Anne Hobbs of Britain defeated second-seeded Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa and Candy Reynolds of the United States, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

West Germany qualifies for European Hockey Cup semifinals

AMSTERDAM (R) — West Germany trounced Wales 6-0 on Monday to secure themselves a place in the semifinals of the European Hockey Championship.

The West Germans, current holders and tournament favorites, dominated the outclassed Wales players in a one-sided match.

After winning all four of their games, the West Germans are now certain of finishing in first or second place in the six-nation qualifying Pool 'A'.

They and the top two nations in Pool 'B' go forward to the semifinals later this week, while the

rest fight it out for the lower placings.

In Monday's game, Wales' only sight of their opponents' goal came from a few long corners, which the West German defence dealt with comfortably.

Karsten Fischer scored twice, taking his tally to nine for the tournament and making him second-top scorer behind Mariano Bordes of Spain, who has hit 12 goals.

The game between England and Austria was interrupted by rain with the scores at 0-0 and was to be resumed later. Monday is a rest day for Pool 'B' teams.

British yacht clinches place in America's Cup final

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Britain's Victory '83 Monday clinched a place in the finals that will decide which foreign yacht challenges the United States for the America's Cup trophy.

Australia II is the other boat in the finals.

Victory '83 ran up its sixth win in the eight-race challengers' semi-finals by beating Canada I by 2 minutes 26 seconds.

The Italian yacht Azzurra went

into Monday's races with a mathematical chance of making the challengers' finals but lost to Australia II over the 24.3-mile America's Cup course.

Both the Italians and the Canadians have announced they plan to challenge again four years from now if the cup stays in the United States.

The Italians have said they will go wherever the next cup match is held.

Ardiles out for 4 weeks

LONDON (R) — Argentine international Osvaldo Ardiles will miss the first four weeks of the English soccer season which starts on Saturday because of injury.

The Tottenham midfielder star was taken off during Sunday's testimonial match for the club's former manager Bill Nicholson against London rivals West Ham.

Ardiles, who rejoined Tottenham from French first division side Paris St. Germain last January, played only four games before breaking the leg against Manchester City.

Hungary invites chess official to settle dispute

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's Chess Federation Monday urged the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to send an official here to end a dispute preventing its Grand Master Zoltan Ribli from playing the Soviet Union's Vasily Smyslov.

The Hungarian body was replying to an invitation from FIDE President Florencio Campomanes for Ribli and a Hungarian official to go to FIDE headquarters in Lucerne, Switzerland to discuss the issue, the official news agency

MTI reported.

The Hungarian message said: "Our federation insists on the series of matches between Ribli and Smyslov taking place. FIDE is expected to 'promote the settlement of the dispute chiefly by co-operating with the federation concerned'."

Ribli and Smyslov were due to meet in Abu Dhabi earlier this month for the semi-final of a tournament to find a challenger for Soviet World Champion Anatoli Karpov.

Gross sets freestyle world record

RÖME (R) — Lanky West German Michael Gross shattered his world 200 metres freestyle record to inject excitement into the European Swimming Championships here on Monday.

The 19-year-old Frankfurt schoolboy accelerated down the final length to win the gold medal in one minute 47.87 seconds, trimming 0.41 seconds off the world mark he set in Hannover in June.

Gross, double world champion in Guayaquil, Ecuador, last year, punched his fist in the air, buried his face in his hands and shook his head in disbelief when he looked at the scoreboard and caught sight of his time.

East German 100 metres freestyle World Champion Joerg Woithe set the early pace, but at 100 metres Gross had just edged in front.

The split time was nearly a second behind his old world record schedule but he pulled away smoothly, never seeming to hurry, and by the finish he was more than two seconds ahead of Woithe.

Fellow West German Thomas Fahrner clinched the bronze and their supporters at the Olympic pool roared their delight at the triumph. Gross, a towering 2.01 metres tall, acknowledged their cheers with both arms raised in the air.

It was the first world record to fall at the championships and it was followed by the establishment of a world mark in a new championship event — the women's 4

x 200 metres freestyle relay.

A record of 8:02.27 was set, inevitably, by East Germany who had scored one-two victories in the two other women's finals decided Monday.

But the women's events still provided a major upset when Petra Schneider — the world Olympic and European Champion — was beaten in the 400 metres individual medley for the first time in five years.

A tiring Schneider, world swimmer of the year in 1980 and 1982, was passed on the final length by 17-year-old compatriot Kathleen Nord from Magdeburg.

Robertas Zulpa won the men's 100 metres breaststroke final by a whisker from British Commonwealth Champion Adrian Moorhouse who had the title snatched from him on the last stroke.

World champion Birgit Meineke took the 100 metres freestyle ahead of team-mate Kristin Otto, so East Germany ended the first day of swimming competition with three titles.

They swept all the women's titles at the last European Championships in split, Yugoslavia, in 1981 and look determined enough to repeat that feat in Rome.



Bykova predicts world record will fall again shortly

LONDON (R) — West Germany's Ulrike Meyfarth and Tamara Bykova of the Soviet Union captivated a capacity European Cup crowd with a world record-breaking duel in the women's high jump here on Sunday... and then admitted their new mark would not stand long.

The long-standing rivals fought out an enthralling battle as Meyfarth broke her own world mark by clearing 2.03 metres and then stood by to watch Bykova soar clear just minutes later for a share of the glory.

But afterwards Bykova said: "We both feel it will not be very long before it is broken again."

The Soviet world champion, beaten by Meyfarth in the European Championships in Athens last year, but who took revenge in Helsinki a week ago, could not say when she felt the mark will be raised again.

But Bykova seemed certain that she and Meyfarth would be involved. "It depends on how the pair

of us feel," she said. "The record may well fall in the not too distant future depending on our physical and mental states."

Their success did little for the fortune for their teams. Meyfarth's West Germans squad ending the two-day women's Group A final in sixth place and Bykova's Soviet team finishing second behind the East Germans for the sixth successive time.

It was the seventh successive win for the East German women, who have held the trophy since 1970. Czechoslovakia was third and Britain fourth.

East Germany swept the men's final too for the fifth consecutive time, amassing 117 points to finish 11 clear of the Soviet Union with East Germany third.

But for Meyfarth the record marked another chapter of an extraordinary return to top-level athletics. She won a gold medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics as a teenager but then spent the mid-70s on the verge of retirement plagued by injury and loss of form.

She now — at 27 — has reaffirmed her appetite for success. She looked in trouble after failing twice at 2.01 metres and Bykova went clear the first time. But the West German hit back to break her own world mark of 2.02 metres at the first try.

Bykova failed at her first attempt to share the record but flew clear on her second jump. Then she went within a whisker of pushing the mark to 2.05 metres when a trailing foot shaved the bar and brought it down.

Bykova, 24, who left home as a teenager to join a special school to get expert coaching and discipline, had cleared 2.03 metres indoors before.

The East Germans did not have things all their own way on the track thanks largely to Czechoslovakia's double world champion and record-holder Jarmila Kratochvilova, who steamed to a superb 200 metres win over Olympic champion and world record-holder Marita Koch.

Sukova defeats Vanier

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia scored an impressive first-round victory on Sunday against Corinne Vanier of France 6-3, 6-3 in a \$150,000 tennis tournament here.

In another match, Katerina Skronska also of Czechoslovakia was forced out by an injury as play started.

Sukova, 18, took a 4-3 lead with the help of two double faults. Sukova held in the eighth game after falling behind, 15-40, and scored another service break in the ninth at 15. The second set went to 3-3 before Sukova came on to win the last three games.

"I wasn't able to get my rhythm early in the match because rallies were short," said Sukova, who reached the fourth round in the French Open and the semifinals in Berlin, each time losing to Chris Evert Lloyd of the United States.

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ECONOMY

Bahrain approves setting up fourth commercial bank

BAHRAIN (R) — A fourth commercial bank will be incorporated in Bahrain later this year following cabinet approval for the venture, a spokesman for the bank said Sunday.

Mr. Sami Kalkow, one of a founding committee of four, said the bank would be a joint venture by Saudi and Bahraini businessmen and would be called the Saudi-Bahrain Bank.

Initial plans called for an authorised share capital of 50 million Bahraini dinars (\$133 million) of which some 35 million (\$93 million) would be issued in a share offering planned for later this year, he said.

Some 70 per cent of the issued share capital would be reserved for the bank's 180 or so founding members.

He said the bank, the first joint banking venture of the kind between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, should start operations early next year.

Mr. Kalkow said the bank, which would also set up an Offshore Banking Unit (OBU) in Bahrain, would use its links with Saudi Arabia to develop business there.

Bahrain already has three locally-incorporated commercial banks, the National Bank of Bahrain, the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and Al Ahli Commercial Bank.

Most of the other banks with a presence on the island are Offshore Banking Units, licensed for a more limited range of banking activities.

U.S. grain sales said to deprive USSR of resources

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's decision to sell more grain to the Soviet Union deprives Moscow of resources that could be used otherwise for weapons, Agriculture Secretary John Block said Sunday.

"It has nothing to do with detailed foreign policy of the Soviet Union," he said when asked whether the recently negotiated grain deal effectively endorsed Moscow's involvement in Afghanistan and arms shipments to Central American leftists.

"It is in our interest to sell grain to a buyer that pays cash," he said in a television interview.

"When the Soviet Union buys grain from us, they transfer some of their resources here, and its that much of the resources that aren't available for military hardware," he said.

Mr. Block will go to Moscow on Aug. 25 to sign the grain deal, a new five-year pact designed to boost minimum sales to nine million tonnes a year from six million tonnes.

The current agreement provided for sales valued at \$9.5 billion since 1976.

Saudi banks set up riyal travellers cheques company

BAHRAIN (R) — Eight Saudi Arabian banks have set up a company to offer Saudi riyal travellers cheques for the first time.

The Saudi Riyal Travellers Cheque Company said in a statement it will begin issuing cheques in denominations of 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 riyals on Aug. 26.

The new company, capitalised at 25 million riyals (\$7.2 million) is owned by eight Saudi banks — National Commercial Bank, Riyadh Bank, Saudi British Bank, Saudi Hollandi, Saudi-Fransi, Arab National, Saudi Cairo and Bank Al-Jazira, the statement said.

American Express will act as service agent for the cheques, but will have no shareholding in the new company.

The statement added the cheques were aimed primarily at Muslims making the annual Hajj pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

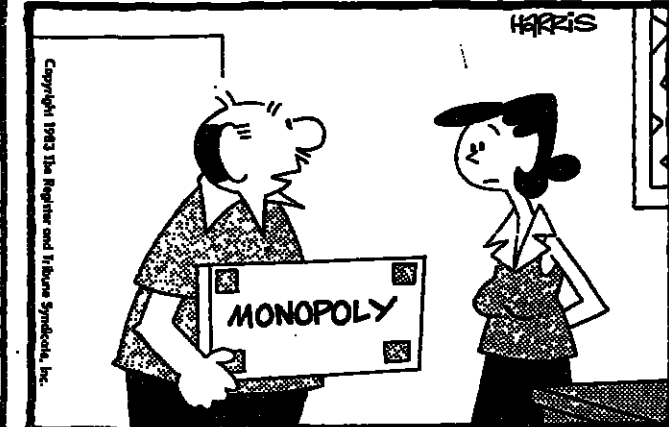
The month-long Hajj, now beginning, is expected to attract some two million pilgrims to the kingdom this year.

More oil found in Ecuador

QUITO (OPECNA) — A new well drilled in the north flank of Ecuador's Oriente mountain range is producing 1,200 barrels a day of 36 degree API crude.

The well, "Bermejo Norte 6", is one of a number being drilled in the northern Bermejo field by the state oil corporation, Cepe, which has hopes of a major production expansion in the area.

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Answer: What the guy who ignored his wife when she suggested that they buy a second car turned out to be — A PEDESTRIAN

What the guy who ignored his wife when she suggested that they buy a second car turned out to be — A PEDESTRIAN

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Israel to cut budget by \$725m

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday night agreed to cut the national budget by 40 billion shekels (about \$725 million) as part of an economic austerity programme, a government spokesman said.

Imported luxury items, chiefly cars and electrical appliances will be taxed a further 10 per cent.

The decision was taken at a 10-hour cabinet meeting during which Finance Minister Yoram Aridor stressed the need to cut spending in every government department, a cabinet source said.

Sunday's session followed a series of stormy meetings last week at

one of which the finance minister threatened to resign unless public spending was slashed.

The government spokesman said the ministers Sunday approved details of three-quarters of the cuts and further discussions would be held to decide on the rest.

The cabinet agreed six days ago on a 16 billion shekel (\$300 million) cut in the defence budget over the next two years.

The treasury had sought a 20 billion shekel (\$360 million) cut. Although no details of the budget cuts were given Sunday night, they are expected to affect mainly

health, education and housing projects and services.

The treasury had been seeking a 55 billion shekel (\$1 billion) cut in public spending but officials said they were satisfied with the agreed reduction.

"Additional revenue will be raised in various other ways," one official said, giving no details. But he said there would be no new income taxes.

Israel's annual rate of inflation is now running at 125 per cent and the treasury has been pressing for new austerity measures to stabilise the economy.

Trilateral commission urges IMF to boost lending ceiling

WASHINGTON (R) — Former World Bank president and U.S. defence secretary Mr. Robert McNamara warned Sunday that American reluctance to increase aid to the Third World could increase political tensions there.

Mr. McNamara was talking to journalists about a report he co-authored for the trilateral commission, an elite organisation of leading politicians, businessmen and academics.

The report, issued Sunday, urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to boost lending to developing nations saddled with debts.

"If this is not forthcoming, the international financial system is in danger of freezing up, with heavy social and political penalties for the developing countries," the report on trade, aid and finance to the Third World said.

Referring to recent riots in Sao Paulo, Brazil, after the IMF insisted on a harsh economic programme there, Mr. McNamara said: "I think you're going to see a lot more of this."

The report said the IMF would soon need fresh money to handle unforeseen emergencies, even though member nations formally

raise their contributions next January.

The 146-nation IMF is due to receive a 47 per cent rise in "quotas" from member countries, boosting its resources to \$96 billion from \$64 billion, but the U.S. Congress has still not approved the U.S. share of \$8.4 billion.

Mr. McNamara told reporters: "The primary responsibility (for their development) rests with the developing nations."

He said this view was shared by a recent World Bank report and speeches by IMF Managing Director Jacques de Larosiere.

Saudi riyal deposit rates fall

BAHRAIN (R) — Interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits at offshore banks in Bahrain fell Monday, as liquidity returned to the market after the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency left its parity rate for the riyal against the dollar unchanged Sunday, dealers said.

The agency's devaluation of the riyal to 3.48 to the dollar from 3.45 on the previous two Sundays had encouraged expectations of a further devaluation Sunday.

Riyal interest rates started to slide late Sunday as banks started to cover short riyal positions, and the move continued Monday, dealers said.

Expectations of a devaluation had encouraged banks last week to borrow in riyals and lend in dollars, a factor which had pushed up riyal deposit rates last week.

Saudi banks started to reverse those positions late Sunday, a

movement which continued Monday encouraged by the relative weakness of the dollar.

Dealers quoted one-month deposits at 10 9/4 per cent, down 1/4 point on Sunday, three-month at 10-5/16 1/16, down 3/16, and six-month at 10-3/4 1/2, unchanged.

The rate on day-to-day money slipped back to 9 1/4 - 9 1/2 per cent, after rising above 12 per cent on Saturday.

Kuwait boosts stake in U.K. oil industry

LONDON (OPECNA) — Kuwait has increased its stake in Britain's North Sea oil industry, sources here said at the weekend.

Saxon Oil, a British independent oil company, has sold to Kuwait-owned Santa Fe Minerals (U.K.) half of its share in a North Sea licence area where a promising oil find was confirmed last May.

The original discovery was made by Conoco, operator for what was then a 50-50 joint venture with Saxon.

Under the new deal, Santa Fe is to make available an estimated \$4.4 million to cover Saxon's past share of development costs and part of its overheads.

Santa Fe will also bear all future costs attributable to Saxon's retained 25 per cent interest, subject to "certain safeguards".

Kuwait already has a stake in a producing North Sea oil concession through Santa Fe's share in the Thistle field.

Prices for full-range naphtha,

Dollar retreats

FRANKFURT (R) — The dollar slipped back against major currencies Monday with the renewed bout of enthusiasm for the U.S. currency seen on Friday proving short-lived.

Dealers said the fall followed news on Friday of an unexpected fall in U.S. M1 money supply, which operators saw as relieving upward pressure on U.S. interest rates.

In Frankfurt, the dollar opened at 2.6295 West German marks, more than two and a half pfennigs below Friday's 2.6565 close, continuing the downward trend seen in New York late on Friday which was followed through in the Far East. It later recovered a little to trade at around 2.64 marks.

After gaining more than five centimes against the French franc during trading on Friday, the dollar opened at around 7.9425 francs in London Monday compared to Friday's closing level of 7.9800.

Figures for U.S. M1 money supply — the amount of cash circulating in the economy and in cheque accounts — announced on Friday, showed a \$500 million fall.

But dealers in Frankfurt said the dollar remained underpinned by expectations of firming U.S. interest rates in the long-term, due to the U.S. budget deficit which is expected to reach \$208 billion in 1983.

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 243.45 Japanese yen although it

had slipped as low as 242.75 during the day.

Friday's surge had taken the dollar to 243.85 yen in London.

Mr. Oimar Emminger, a former president of the West German Bundesbank, said in a radio interview over the weekend that the dollar was up to 20 per cent overvalued against the mark.

Mr. Emminger said the overvaluation resulted from the U.S. budget deficit which was pushing up interest rates and attracting foreign capital, and added he did not expect any sustained fall in U.S. interest rates in the near future.

Meanwhile, share prices on the Tokyo stock market rose strongly again Monday, pushing the market average up 66.62 points to a record 9,203.75, stockbrokers said.

They said investors were buying of an end to the international recession and with Japanese exports picking up.

The market, which also hit a record last Friday, was helped Monday by a feeling that U.S. interest rates were not likely to rise much further, holding out the prospect of a firmer Japanese yen, they added.

In recent weeks the yen has been weak against the dollar, prompting fears among major overseas investors that they could lose money if they invested in yen-denominated securities.

Saudi Arabia said raising prices for naphtha exports

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has raised its prices for naphtha exports for the second time in two weeks, oil industry sources said Monday.

Posted prices for natural gas liquid condensate, known as A180, were raised to 69.35 cents per U.S. gallon from 67.55 cents, effective Sunday.

Prices for full-range naphtha,

known as A310, would rise two cents to 74.9 cents a gallon, also effective Sunday, the sources said.

Saudi Arabia last raised posted naphtha prices from Aug. 8, when the A180 was increased 0.55 cents a gallon and the A310 by 0.5 cents a gallon.

The rises, equivalent to about \$7 a tonne, reflect trends on the spot market, where prices for naphtha have risen \$10 to \$15 a

tonne in the last six weeks.

The sources said the rises, which follow the signing by Japanese importers of contracts over the last two weeks covering some one million tonnes of naphtha a year, leave Saudi prices some \$10 to \$12 a tonne over equivalent Kuwaiti rates.

They said a rise in Kuwaiti posted prices for naphtha might now be expected.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Judson G. Trent

ACROSS	23 Italian port	50 Awn	20 Radiology items
1 Gen. Bradley	25 Gorgon	53 Cross swords	24 Gas pref.
5 Cieslax	29 Fragrant compound	55 Mae or Rebecca	25 Cradle rocks
9 Altitudinous	31 Yoked beasts	56 Bangor resident	26 Egress
13 Toll	32 Cheer	62 Handle Lat.	27 Remove, in printing
14 Cavity	34 Smiling	63 Minute quantity	28 Comprehend
15 Laze	38 Least severe	64 Aircraft	30 Louver
16 Like the old bucket	40 Receiver of transferred property	65 Amaze	33 Major ending
17 Author Waugh	42 Charger	66 Texas town	35 Sci. subject
18 Backpack's contents	43 Henri's head	67 Flavorful	36 Granular snow field
19 Spoil a film	45 Redeem	68 Obey — do well	37 — off (annoyed)
21 Lagomorph	46 Originated the arch-tect	69 Mild oath	39 Prepare copy
22 Christopher the arch-tect	48 Treated animals		41 Reception

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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INTERCONNECTION	
FIRST PRIZE	
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EPIDEMIOLOGY	
WOMEN WEAR	SRI
ACIDS	HOC
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MANUALLY	RAIT
EDITH	NEAR
EDITH	NEAR
UNLAVENED	BREAD
TESTY	DIET

1 Regal name

2 Construct

3 Declare

4 Furbishes

5 Silhouette

6 Kentucky VIP

7 English country festivals

8 Fresh

9 Person of great influence

10 Model

11 Bright light

12 Start of a toast

13 — Canals

14 Reception

15 Make melancholy

16 Pass

17 Flooded

18 Paris income

19 Edition

20 Open

21 Shield

22 Scarcious

23 Mulberry bark

24 Oklahoma city

25 Crimson

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WORLD

Aquino's assassination shocks Philippines

MANILA (R) — Philippines opposition group Monday bitterly condemned the airport murder of former Sen. Benigno Aquino and vowed to continue his campaign for the restoration of democracy.

In a joint statement, the 12-member United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO) questioned what it called the "mysterious circumstances" in which an assassin managed to penetrate Manila Airport security Sunday and shoot Mr. Aquino at a range, they said, of 48 cm.

Police and military authorities said they still had no clue to the identity of the lone gunman they said shot opposition leader Aquino. He was immediately killed by security escort from the China Airlines aircraft that brought him from Taipei on the last leg of his journey from three years' self-imposed exile in the United States.

He returned despite government warnings that there were threats to his life from personal enemies and that he would be sent back to the military prison from which he was released in 1980 to have heart surgery in the U.S.

He had been previously in jail for seven years after being sentenced to death by a military court for subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms.

Describing the killing as an act of brutality and treachery, assemblyman Salvador Laurel, president of UNIDO, said the authorities had issued a statement two days before Mr. Aquino's arrival saying the airport was secure.

The UNIDO statement, read out by Mr. Laurel, said Mr. Aquino was killed while in military custody.

Mr. Laurel said those left behind would continue his struggle for the "restoration of rights and freedom and to stave off bloody revolution."

The statement was delivered at a press conference in the garden of Mr. Aquino's home, which had been renovated for his return. Yellow ribbons still hung from palm trees lining the street in the north

Manila suburb. By noon Monday about 1,000 mourners had filed past the opposition leader's body, still wearing blood-stained clothes and exposed in a casket draped with the red, white and blue Philippines flag.

The body arrived there at 0530 Monday morning when relatives, friends and political allies prayed at mass.

Lines of people spilled into the street, waiting to take a last look at the man some political observers believed could have united the political opponents of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Among the mourners were his 75-year-old mother, Aurora Aquino, and 10 brothers and sisters. The mood was summed up by one relative, brother-in-law Ken Kashiwahara, from San Francisco, who had accompanied Mr. Aquino on his final flight home.

"I was shocked, stunned, angry and saddened. I just hope that the impact of all this is not bloody and violent revolution. That is exactly what he did not want. That is why he came home," Mr. Kashiwahara said.

There was a wound on Mr. Aquino's jaw where the bullet left his head, as well as powder burns, blood and bruises on the face. Members of the family said the bruises were probably suffered when he fell on the airport tarmac.

Over Mr. Aquino's feet lay the bullet-proof vest he had donned only minutes before the China Airlines Boeing 767 landed at the end of his final journey home after three years of self-exile in the United States.

Opposition politicians were meeting Monday to weigh their next move without Mr. Aquino. Most are linked in a loose coalition, the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO).

UNIDO spokesman Tony Alano said: "We will continue to work and fight for the restoration of democracy and freedom in this country."

The immediate popular reaction was mostly stunned shock. Politics in the Philippines is personality rather than ideology, and Mr. Aquino had considerable personal appeal.

President Marcos Sunday night issued a statement condemning the assassination and expressing sorrow at the death of Mr. Aquino, his long-time political foe and once the most formidable ballot box threat to his presidency.

But he coupled his statement with a tough warning to "opportunistic elements" not to take advantage of the killing by fomenting disorder, anarchy and chaos.

Officials at the presidential palace said they know of no plans for the president to express personal condolences more privately to the Aquino family. But they said neither he nor his wife, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, had any official engagement for the day.

Mr. Aquino's brother-in-law Lichauco said Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile Sunday night visited Mr. Aquino's mother to convey his own condolences at the death of her son. He said they met at the military hospital where Mr. Aquino's body was taken after the shooting.

U.S. ambassador Michael Armistead also issued a statement on behalf of the embassy expressing "profound regret at the senseless act of violence" and deep condolences and sympathy to the Aquino family.

Embassy officials said there were no plans to call off President Reagan's visit in November, drawing attention to a statement to that effect Sunday night from the White House in Washington.

But other embassy sources commented: "This is going to make the visit very difficult for security. People are going to be absolutely bananas (frantic)."



MISSING: Mothers of people missing from the Argentine government's anti-leftist campaign of the mid-1970s, lead a march through downtown Buenos Aires, condemning the military's intention to pass legislation preventing future inquiries into human rights abuses by security forces. The people pictured on the posters are among the 8,000 to 15,000 people who were abducted, tortured and executed, according to human rights groups. (A.P. laserphoto)

Orlandi case fast becoming Italian mystery

ROME (R) — When Italians first noticed posters asking if anyone had seen Emanuela Orlandi, they thought she was just another schoolgirl who had run away from home.

But Emanuela, "aged 15, one metre 60 centimetres tall, wearing jeans and a white shirt, last seen at 1900 on June 22, coming out of music school," is at the centre of an unsolved mystery.

A series of telephone calls claiming to belong to a shadowy group which has kidnapped Emanuela have demanded the release of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman jailed for life in Italy for shooting Pope John Paul in 1981.

Until her disappearance Emanuela lived with her parents inside the Vatican, where her father works as a messenger. She travelled daily to school and occasionally met friends in Piazza Navona or some other popular meeting-place in the capital.

Exhaustive police inquiries in Italy have failed to establish whether the shy, dark-haired girl was kidnapped or ran away, or even whether she is still alive.

The Pope, who took the official view that the calls were genuine, made seven separate public appeals for Emanuela's return but has recently fallen silent on the subject.

The Vatican bowed to the presumed kidnappers' early demands and announced the opening of a specially-coded telephone "hot line" to Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, a move which apparently failed to resolve the situation.

Agca was brought to Rome from prison at Ascoli Piceno in eastern Italy in an attempt to shed light on the case, but he denied involvement and said that he did not want to be freed.

"I am with the innocent girl with the family which feels pain," he said as prison guards bundled him into a van for the journey back to prison.

The self-styled kidnappers waited six weeks before identifying themselves as the "Turkish Christian liberation front", a previously unknown group. Deadlines set for Agca's release passed without incident, then in a

letter to the Italian news agency ANSA this month they threatened to kill Emanuela on Oct. 30 unless Agca was freed.

Emanuela's father Ercole, one of the Vatican city state's 1,000 inhabitants, and other family members have begged for proof that she is alive, but have seen little to reassure them.

Judicial sources said investigators were now sceptical about an alleged tape-recording of the girl's voice and about messages purportedly containing information which only she could know.

The supposed kidnappers had answered precise questions by the family about Emanuela's personal life in only the most general way and in some cases they were wrong, the sources said.

The Orlandi family deny that Emanuela had any reason to run away from home, but some newspapers speculated she might have found life in a small flat behind the Vatican walls too dull.

There have been endless anonymous telephone calls saying she could be found in places as varied

Swiss seek release of 10 hostages

KHARTOUM (R) — A representative of the Swiss-based organisation Terre des Hommes has met members of the guerrilla group holding 10 Swiss hostages, a spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said.

The TPLF, which is fighting Ethiopian rule of Tigray Province, said Terre des Hommes representative Edward Burkhalter was free to go to Tigray anytime to collect the hostages.

Burkhalter, who arrived on Friday, was not immediately available for comment.

The spokesman, Yemani Kidane, said the TPLF was even ready to hand the Swiss over in Ethiopian government-held territory.

But he added that the government would have to refrain from military activity to avoid endangering the lives of the Swiss during the handover.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nobody wants Algerian stowaways

NEWLYN, England (R) — Two Algerian stowaways are trapped on board a Dutch ship because no country will admit them, the vessel's captain said. Capt. Hendrik Smeenk said the two had stowed away on his 2,535-tonne cargo ship Anny Danielsen at Skikda, Algeria, three weeks ago. Capt. Smeenk, 37, told reporters in this south-west English port that authorities in Portugal, Ireland and Britain had refused to accept the Algerians. "No-one wants them and I have been told by an Algerian consul in Ireland that not even their own country will allow them to land because they have no papers," Capt. Smeenk, who later set sail for Cuxhaven, West Germany, said the stowaways were locked up on board the ship.

Colombo continues to probe leftists

COLOMBO (R) — Junius Jayawardene, the president of Sri Lanka said Monday that the role of three leftist parties in the island's recent ethnic violence was being investigated and further action would be taken against them. Leaders of the pro-Moscow Communist Party were detained, but those of the other two outlawed parties — the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front), which launched and aborted armed insurrection in 1971, and the Nawa Sama Samaja Party (New Socialist Party) — went into hiding.

Mauritius premier wins clear lead

PORT LOUIS (R) — The three-party alliance of Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth had a clear lead in Mauritius' general election Monday after more than 60 per cent of votes had been counted. Opposition leader Paul Berenger was beaten in his home district of Quatre-Bornes, according to an early result. "The struggle continues but we respect the result of the election," Mr. Berenger told supporters in a statement conceding his own defeat and apparently preparing supporters for a general defeat on this Indian Ocean island. According to the Mauritian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Berenger's Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) appeared to be heading for 24 parliamentary seats against 38 for Mr. Jugnauth's alliance.

11 skydivers die in plane crash

STANWOOD, Washington (R) — Eleven people were killed and 15 parachuted to safety when a plane carrying skydivers crashed near Stanwood Sunday, police said. The plane, carrying 24 skydivers and a crew of two, crashed on a highway close to the town, 80 kilometres north of Seattle, police said. Fifteen of those on board managed to jump out and parachute to safety.

Too many bears roam Estonia

MOSCOW (R) — Hunting of brown bears, banned in Estonia for 50 years, has been declared legal for licensed hunters, the official Soviet news agency TASS said. Brown bears, which once roamed the forests of the Baltic republic in large numbers, had dwindled to a few pairs by 1940, when the former Russian province was annexed by the Soviet Union after two decades of independence. The bears were declared an endangered species, entered in the "red data book", and a sanctuary was set up in northern Estonia, TASS said.

Striking unionists reach agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — A national agreement between representatives of American Telephone and Telegraph Company (ATT) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) aimed at settling a two-week-old nationwide telephone strike was approved by the union's top governing board Sunday. CWA President Glenn Watts, representing 525,000 of the 675,000 striking workers, made the announcement to reporters after the union's executive board had approved the new proposal made by ATT.

World capitals condemn assassination

CANBERRA (R) — Australia Monday joined the United States in condemning the assassination of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, while Japan expressed concern and said it would closely watch developments.

News of his murder death at Manila Airport was splashed across newspapers Monday and one leading Bangkok daily, the Nation Review, asked whether it was safe for President Reagan to go to Manila if airport security there could not protect someone of Mr. Aquino's stature.

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said in a statement that Canberra's ambassador in Manila had been told to bring his

country's concern over the killing to the attention of the Philippines government.

"The Australian government urges the Philippines government to spare no effort to bring the perpetrators of this heinous assassination to justice," Mr. Hayden said.

The United States earlier described the killing as a "cowardly and despicable act which the United States condemns in the strongest possible terms."

In Tokyo, chief cabinet secretary Masaharu Gotoda told a news conference: "We extend our sincere condolences. We hope the facts will be probed by the Philippines government at the earliest possible date."

There was no immediate government comment from the four other members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

But Jusuf Wanandi, director of the Indonesian government "think-tank" organisation, the centre for strategic and international studies, said he believed the killing could be followed by riots.

In Bangkok, the Nation Review asked if Mr. Reagan could risk a visit to Manila.

Another English-language daily, the Bangkok Post, said the murder "with all the attendant feelings of intrigue and circumstantial doubt about the capability of high-ranking members of the administration right up to the president himself, is bound to spur more emotionalism than ever."

A leading Thai opposition politician, Klaw Norapatt, secretary general of the Small Social Democratic Party, said Thailand was ashamed to have an ASEAN partner "whose hands are stained in blood."

Former South Korean opposition leader Kim Young-Sam, a personal friend of Mr. Aquino, said in Seoul "this barbaric political terror act is a threat to world peace. It is a tragedy and misfortune for all human beings in the world."

The parliamentary leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party, Lee Jong-Chan, said: "It is deplorable that political violence and assassination still remain."

In Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post said "vendetta must be alive and well in the Philippines. How else can one explain the homecoming at Manila's International Airport yesterday of Benigno Aquino to a bullet from a lone gunman?"

In Paris, a government spokesman condemned the murder, describing it as a blow to hopes of democratic debate in the Philippines.

An external relations ministry spokesman said: "Everyone knew he had been threatened. We deplore this blow against the hopes of democratic debate in the Philippines."

Taiwan, meanwhile, said it did not know that Mr. Aquino, who arrived in Manila on a flight from Taipei, had been in the country.

A foreign ministry spokesman said there was no record of anyone entering or leaving Taiwan under the name of Aquino.

8 die in Irish train disaster

KILDARE, Ireland (R) — At least eight people were killed and 50 injured when a crowded train ploughed into the back of a stationary one near here late Sunday night, police said.

Rescue workers at the scene said a train from Galway ran into the back of an express from Tralee. County Kerry, which had stopped just outside Kildare, about 50 kilometres west of Dublin.

The rescuers said it appeared that the Tralee train, which had switched to a smaller locomotive shortly after the journey began when the original engine began overheating, had run out of fuel.

One of the dead was trapped in the wreckage, and rescue workers were waiting until dawn before trying to free the body, police said. Some survivors were also thought to be still inside the tangled remains.

Reagan criticised by woman civil rights official

WASHINGTON (R) — A Justice Department civil rights official Sunday publicly accused President Reagan of reneging on a pledge to eliminate discrimination against women.

Barbara Honneger, special assistant in the department's civil rights division in charge of gender discrimination review, said Mr. Reagan's alternative programme to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was a sham.

The ERA would have outlawed discrimination based on gender as a matter of constitutional law. It was opposed by Mr. Reagan and the ratification deadline expired in June 1982 after failing to gain the requisite three-quarters support by the 50 states.

In an article in the opinion pages of the Washington Post, Honneger said her group had been told it had no authority to suggest changes in laws and government regulations that were found to discriminate against women.

The group may only forward a list of such laws to the White House for consideration, she said. She said all three reasons implied certain actions on Mr. Reagan's part to protect women's rights. "But he has not taken them," she has reneged on his commitment.

Her attack, however, centred on what she said were bureaucratic roadblocks. "I am insulted when the president of my country haggles with the civil rights commission over whether his record on the app-

oints.

The injured, including 20 in serious condition, were taken to nearby Naas and Kildare hospitals.

The force of the impact hurled one carriage on top of another and jack-knifed the others along a marshy field beside the track.

There were emotional scenes at Dublin's main station as survivors arrived by special bus or hitchhiked from the crash scene. Taxis arrived from all over the city to take them home.

"I heard a big bang, and then there was bedlam," one survivor travelling on the Galway train said. "People were screaming, their heads off the running all over the place."

"A few people got hit by flying tables and bottles. I was standing up, as there were no seats, and got hit by a door."

Black losses, gains

WASHINGTON (R) — Middle class black married couples prospered in the 1970s but poor black families headed by a single parent saw their income eroded, according to census figures published Sunday.

More middle class black families bought homes — the number occupied by black owners rose by 45 per cent to 3.7 million in 1980 — put more of their children into university and saw them graduate with better educational marks during the decade, the census bureau report said.

But it added that gains for middle class blacks had to some extent come to a halt with the economic downturn of 1974.

Black married couples in the wage group just below \$20,000 a year saw their income rise nearly seven per cent in the decade in constant dollars adjusted for inflation.

But the average income for black families headed by mothers without husbands dropped from \$8,190 to 7,510.

U.N. leader leaves for talks on Namibia issue

MADRID (R) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left here Monday for Cape Town for talks with the South African government aimed at breaking the deadlock over independence for Namibia (South West Africa), foreign ministry officials said.

He left in a Spanish air force plane after a day's stopover here where he met Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

It will be the first visit to the racially segregated republic by a U.N. chief since Kurt Waldheim, Mr. Perez de Cuellar's predecessor, was there — for the same issue — in 1972.

The secretary general is making the visit in response to a May 31 Security Council resolution that directed him to consult the South African authorities and the territory's main independence group, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), on ways to expedite any settlement.

In Cape Town, the secretary general and key advisers will open talks with a South African delegation led by Foreign Minister Rieff (Pik) Botha. Prime Minister P.W. Botha will give a lunch for the U.N. visitors but is not expected to play a major part in the talks, due to last three days.

Afterwards, Mr. Perez de Cuellar will travel to Namibia and confer there with representatives of

internal political parties, of which there are no fewer than 17.

The secretary general was at first reluctant to make the Southern Africa trip without a prior assurance of positive results.

Diplomatic sources said that in talks last Tuesday with South African representatives in New York, he was told that the South African government was willing to discuss all aspects of the problem, without reservation. Thereupon, they said, he decided it was worthwhile going to Cape Town.

Diplomatic sources said that the United States had obtained a commitment from South Africa to do nothing during his visit that might embarrass the secretary general, such as launching a military offensive in the border area with Angola.

However, the sources said, a recent upsurge of guerrilla military activity was hardly helpful to his mission.

Among the issues to be discussed with the South Africans is a status of forces agreement for the estimated 7,500 U.N. troops who would keep order in Namibia during U.N.-supervised elections and the transition to statehood, and the electoral system.

The secretary general will be in Namibia the day before the U.N. celebrates Namibia day, dedicated to the independence cause.

Multi-racial challenge to apartheid system launched

CAPE TOWN (R) — Some 8,000 people of all races met here this weekend to launch the biggest anti-apartheid movement in South Africa since the African National Congress was outlawed in 1960.

The United Democratic Front (UDF), an alliance of about 400 civic, religious, trade union and sports groups which claims to represent about one million people, is demanding a non-racial republic.

After a mass rally Saturday night, the UDF executive spent Sunday planning an action campaign against Prime Minister P.W. Botha's recent reform moves and other proposed laws which aim to tighten the movement of blacks in urban areas.

Because of a ban on outdoor political gatherings, meetings

were being held in a civic centre and a huge tent.

The executive said after Sunday's talks that it would seek a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who was due to arrive Monday for talks on Namibia.

Couching its policy in moderate terms, the new group has attacked both apartheid (racial separation) and current attempts by the government to introduce limited power-sharing for the Indian and coloured (mixed race) communities.

The president of the world alliance of reformed churches, Alan Boesak, warned the government at the rally that citizens were ready to fight "the evil system of apartheid" at every level.